

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00988 251138Z
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T DOHA 988

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PORS, QA, XF
SUBJECT: QATARI POLICE CHIEF ON QATAR POLICE

REF: DOHA 989 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURING DEA LIAISON VISIT, QATARI COMMANDANT OF POLICE REFLECTED ON PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF QATARI POLICE FORCE. STARTING WITH VERY LITTLE, HAMAD BELIEVES HE NOW HAS GOOD FORCE AND BEST INTELLIGENCE UNIT IN GULF STATES. HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDE AN EVEN LARGER POLICE FORCE AND A POLICE ACADEMY AFFILIATED WITH QATAR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL BY DEA AGENT PETER DEDICH AND EMBOFF, QATAR CHIEF OF POLICE SHAYKH HAMAD BIN JASIM AL-THANI USED OCCASION TO LECTURE ON HISTORY AND FUTURE OF QATARI POLICE FORCE. FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO SHAYKH HAMAD. AT THE CONCLUSION OF BRITISH RULE, QATAR'S POLICE FORCE CONSISTED OF BETWEEN 500-600 MEN WITH

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PAGE 02 DOHA 00988 251138Z

ONLY FOURTEEN QATARI OFFICERS (INCLUDING HIMSELF). OF THESE OFFICERS, ONLY THREE HAD RECEIVED ANY POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. FORCE WAS POORLY-TRAINED AND ILL-EQUIPPED TO HANDLE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ROLE.

3. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 7,100 MEN IN POLICE FORCE, INCLUDING AN ELITE RIOT SQUAD AND AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT. ALL NEW QATARI OFFICERS

HAVE AT LEAST A COLLEGE EDUCATION AND MANY ARE WORKING FOR ADVANCED DEGREES. IN THE PAST QATARI POLICE CADETS RECEIVED LONG-TERM TRAINING IN THE U.K. BUT THIS IS NO LONGER SATISFACTORY, AND IN FUTURE POLICE CADETS HOPEFULLY WILL BE TRAINED IN THE US. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE OF AT LEAST 25 NEW POLICE CADETS WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO US FOR TRAINING THIS YEAR. INITIALLY, ALL WERE INSTALLED IN PROGRAMS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION. END COMMENT. FURTHERMORE, POLICE REGULARLY ATTEND TRAINING COURSES OUTSIDE OF QATAR. TURNING TO DEPUTY CHIEF OF CID AND HEAD OF ILLICIT DRUG SECTION, MAJOR KHAMIS MASSOUD TIBIASHI, HAMAD ASKED HOW MANY TRAINING COURSES HE HAD ATTENDED. TIBIASHI RESPONDED, FOURTEEN, INCLUDING DEA'S FIVE-WEEK COURSE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF HOW HE HOPED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN QATARIS FOR CAREERS AS POLICE OFFICERS HAMAD STATED THAT ALTHOUGH STARTING SALARY FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES IN OTHER AREAS OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS 4,500 QRS PER MONTH PLUS HOUSING (\$1.00 EQUALS 3.86 QRS) NEW POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVED 7,500 QRS PLUS HOUSING AND IN ADDITION ARE GIVEN LOAN OF 500,000 QRS PLUS LAND. DISCIPLINE IS STRICTLY ENFORCED IN POLICE DEPARTMENT. A RECENT BRIBE CASE RESULTED IN A DEPARTMENTAL HEARING WITH THE GUILTY OFFICER RECEIVING A THREE-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE. IN CASES OF CORRUPTION, POLICE OFFICERS ARE NOT ALLOWED BENEFIT OF TRIAL OUTSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

5. RIOT SQUAD. THIS SECTION IS NOT A RIOT SQUAD AT ALL BUT
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PAGE 03 DOHA 00988 251138Z

ACTUALLY A COMMANDO UNIT. THE TERM RIOT SQUAD IS EMPLOYED SO AS NOT TO EMBARRASS QATAR'S MILITARY. THE SQUAD IS COMPOSED OF 600 QATARIS, ALL TRAINED IN AUTOMATIC WEAPONRY AND EXPLOSIVES. THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND INFRA RED SENSORS.

6. INTELLIGENCE UNIT. THIS UNIT IS THE BEST AMONG THE GULF STATES AND SOON WILL BE PLACING INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS IN QATARI MISSIONS ABROAD. TO ILLUSTRATE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS, HAMAD CLAIMS: (A) THAT HE WARNED BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION OF BAHRAINI JOURNALIST AL-MADINI AND PROVIDED NAMES, PHOTOS AND BAHRAINI ADDRESSES FOR THOSE INVOLVED. WHILE ONLY FIVE INDIVIDUALS WERE APPREHENDED, THE GANG TOTALLED EIGHTEEN PEOPLE. BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES DISCOUNTED THIS INFORMATION, BELIEVING QATAR HOPED TO CREATE DISCONTENT IN BAHRAIN. NOW THE BAHRAINI LISTEN.

(B) THAT HE KNOWS WHO KILLED PLO REP HAMAMI AND HAS INFO THAT BRITISH POLICE AUTHORITIES WERE ALSO AWARE OF KILLER'S IDENTIFICATION. (C) THAT HE HAS INFO LINKING THE IRAQI CULTURAL AFFAIRS ATTACHE IN LONDON TO THE MURDER OF EX-IRAQI PREMIER AHMAD ABDEL RAZAK. (D) THAT HE KNOWS WHO KILLED FORMER PLO REP IN KUWAIT, ALI NASER YASSIN, AND IS ALSO AWARE OF THE IDENTIFI-

CATION OF THE MURDERERS OF FORMER IRAQI MINISTER OF DEFENSE
HAHCEN TIKRIT. IN BOTH CASES KUWAITI AUTHORITIES HAVE FAILED TO
TAKE ACTION ON HIS INFO.

7. THE FUTURE: THE SIZE OF QATAR'S POLICE FORCE WILL EVENTUALLY
REACH 13,000 MEN. THEY WILL BE BOLSTERED BY THE CREATION OF A
POLICE ACADEMY AFFILIATED WITH QATAR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND THE
INSTALLATION OF A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK BY MOTOROLA.
INITIALLY, 80 PERCENT OF ALL COURSES AT THE POLICE ACADEMY WILL
BE TAUGHT BY QATARIS AND EVENTUALLY THEY WILL TEACH ALL COURSES.
AT PRESENT EIGHTEEN QATARIS ARE WORKING ON ADVANCED DEGREES IN
LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY AND THEY WILL BE EMPLOYED AS TEACHERS AT THE
NEW ACADEMY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 DOHA 00988 251138Z

8. COMMENT: WHILE OBVIOUSLY SELF-SERVING, SHAYKH HAMAD'S
STATEMENTS DEMONSTRATE THE PRIDE WHICH HE TAKES IN HIS FORCE.
HAMAD IS A LOQUACIOUS, INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN WHO IS HIGHLY
RESPECTED IN QATAR. HIS LATE FATHER, THE FORMER MINISTER OF
EDUCATION, WAS THE BROTHER OF THE PRESENT EMIR. DESPITE THIS
REPUTATION, SEVERAL OF SHAYKH HAMAD'S STATEMENTS MUST BE VIEWED
WITH SKEPTICISM. (A) EMBASSY HAS NO WAY TO VERIFY HAMAD'S
INFORMATION ON ASSASSINATIONS. (B) IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT QATAR'S
POLICE FORCE WILL EVER REACH 13,000 MEN. THERE IS ALREADY
FRICTION BETWEEN QATAR'S MILITARY, COMMANDED BY THE OLDEST SON OF
THE EMIR, AND HIS DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA
AL-THANI, AND THE POLICE. AN INCREASE OF SUCH PROPORTIONS IN THE
POLICE FORCE IS UNWARRANTED IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC SECURITY AND
WOULD BE REGARDED AS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE CROWN PRINCE.
(B) IN SPITE OF SHAYKH HAMAD'S CONFIDENCE IN HIS QATARI
OFFICERS, THE POLICE ARE STILL COMPOSED OF LARGE NUMBERS OF
EXPATRIATES, PARTICULARLY JORDANIANS AND SUDANESE WHO ARE
NEITHER HIGHLY TRAINED NOR HIGHLY MOTIVATED. MOST QATARI
OFFICERS TEND TO GRAVITATE AWAY FROM THE MORE MUNDANE AND
IMMEDIATE TASKS OF TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND INTO
THE ELITE COMMANDO AND INTELLIGENCE UNITS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT
THESE OFFICERS ARE ATTENDING EXTENDED TRAINING COURSES ABROAD
AND AWAY FROM THEIR JOBS IN QATAR.
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